



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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GULF COUNCIL VOTES ON GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA (IFQ) PROGRAM

On March 23, 2006, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) voted (14–2, 1 absentee) to submit Amendment 26 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) for review according to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This amendment, if approved by the Secretary, would establish an IFQ program for the commercial red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. The purpose of the IFQ program is to reduce overcapacity in the commercial fishery and to eliminate, to the extent possible, the problems associated with derby fishing. As part of the Secretary's review process, NOAA Fisheries Service will seek public comment on Amendment 26 and its proposed rule later this spring.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries

Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes. This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

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